

The next meeting of the GE-Housatonic River Citizens Coordinating Council will be Wednesday, November 6, 2002, at the Berkshire Community College.

Following are: a) the agenda for the upcoming meeting, b) the notes from the last meeting, and c) the Calendar of Upcoming Meeting Dates (to be discussed on November 6). The Action Items are being attached in two different formats: as a Word document and in "rich text" format for those with older word processors.

EPA has produced a chart on monitoring of the ½ mile and that is also being attached in several formats: Word document, WordPerfect document, and "rich text" format. If you have any questions or difficulty with this transmission, please e-mail or call Cliff McCarthy at (617) 727-2224 ext. 21176.

Note: As per your request, this e-mail is being sent as "blind copies," so no names will appear on the recipient list.

GE-Housatonic River Citizens Coordinating Council
Berkshire Community College
November 6, 2002
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Harry Manasewich, MA Office of Dispute Resolution
Assistant Facilitator: Cliff McCarthy, MA Office of Dispute Resolution

Project web site:<http://www.epa.gov/region01/ge>

Proposed Agenda

- 5:30 - 5:40 Welcome and Introductions (by Facilitator)
 - 5:40 - 5:50 Review of Proposed Agenda and Notes of Last Meeting (by Facilitator)
 - 5:50 - 6:30 Presentation and Discussion: Groundwater Monitoring Presentation (by EPA)
 - 6:30 - 7:30 Updates (includes follow-up questions and answers)
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- * General Electric (by Mike Carroll and team)
 - * U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (by Bryan Olson)
 - * MA Department of Environmental Protection (by Susan Steenstrup)
 - * Natural Resources Damages (by Dale Young)

7:30- 7:45 Action Items from Last Meeting: Report and Discussion (by Facilitator)

7:45- 8:00 Next Steps: Discussion (by Facilitator)

- Future Agenda Items
 - * Calendar of Upcoming Meeting Date
 - Next Meeting
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GE-Housatonic River Citizen's Coordinating Council

Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium

Meeting Notes

October 2, 2002

Prepared by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution.

Lead Facilitator: Harry Manasewich

Assistant Facilitator: Cliff McCarthy

Project web site: www.epa.gov/region01/ge

Participants and Introductions

There were 16 members of the CCC present. There were 6 people in the audience. All attendees introduced themselves.

Review of September 4th Meeting Highlights: The notes were reviewed. One correction was made to page 6 - " EPA " changed to " EOEA " .

Agenda Review

The proposed agenda was reviewed and agreed upon by all.

Updates

General Electric - by Mike Carroll, Andy Silber, & Richard Gates

Brownfields:

Buildings 33 and 34 are being prepared for demolition; Building 31 work is complete. GE and Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) are working out details of master site plan. One issue is foundation reuse versus slab removal.

"½ mile ":

Work has been completed; equipment being removed. Material being placed in the OPCA this fall. Monitoring underway. Bryan of EPA is working on future presentation on all monitoring. The Facilitator reminded all that the completion of "½ mile " was a "momentous occasion"; the

fulfillment of many dreams and hard work, and that it was due in large part to the collaborative work of the CCC, the regulators, and GE. EPA acknowledged this at a recent impromptu public event. It was noted that no public or citizens groups were invited. Bryan explained that it was spontaneous, not a planned event, and was part of a regular meeting.

Residential program:

Numbers unchanged from last time (324 properties total, 171 for restoration, 164 done, 7 to be done). 6 work plans submitted to DEP.

Commercial sites:

Dalton & Commercial St. work is on going. Newell St. 1 & 2 and Lyman St. have lots of sampling underway. Work plan for Oxbow A & C has been submitted. Floodplain property sampling has started for the "mile and ½" .

Discussion:

There was a question about the work on Commercial St. Additional sampling was done on about 5 properties, data is in. No evidence of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL).

USEPA – Bryan Olson

"Mile and ½" reach: There will be a walking tour of the " mile and ½" offered prior to next CCC meeting Nov. 6th. It will begin at 3:30 pm and last approximately one hour. If interested in participating sign-up in advance through Cliff or Harry at MODR.

Darrell Moore, Project Engineer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), has an office at Lyman St. (413-236-0968). The Corps will be overseeing the activities of the Mile and ½. Mr. Moore described activities for " mile and 1/2 " . June -- began tree clearing, fencing, and building access roads. August - the contractor began waste water treatment plant which was inspected and approved 9/23. Dredging began 9/26. Some sections use "bin block" construction - 3x3x4 concrete blocks to create retaining wall. Phase I (Lyman St. bridge to Oxbow A/C) expected to be completed by May 2003. Phase II (to Dawes Ave.) 2-3 years to complete. Designs for Phase II underway. Phase III is to confluence. Entire "mile and ½" will take about 5-7 years.

Discussion:

Tim Gray asked about stabilization of banks below Elm St. where homes are right on the river. Don't have answers, yet. Still in design stage.

Judy Herkimer asked about air quality testing. EPA monthly summary report includes air data; posted on the website.

"Rest of River":

Data has been mostly collected. Probably make decisions about rest of river cleanup in 2005, only after risk assessments and modeling steps have been completed.

Ecological Risk Assessment Characterization report scheduled for Sep 2002 or very soon

Draft Risk Assessment (public comment) in about March 2003

Peer Review in about July 2003

Human Health Risk Assessment Draft to the public (public comment) in about April 2003

Peer review in about August 2003

Modeling - testing how PCBs react in stream, the effects of different events and conditions; will determine the extent of cleanup and choice of technology; 3 different peer reviews: modeling design framework report due in November 2002, then peer review calibration peer review in Fall of 2003, validation peer review in early 2004

Relating to an earlier Action Item posed by Benno, EPA is willing to examine technology alternatives, possible pilot project, but time is not right, yet. Need to have risk assessment reports, first. Planning should go forward, but need to know what clean-up standards will be required.

Full-scale pilot project underway in NY should be instructive. Should continue to provide updates to the CCC at important milestones.

NPDES Draft Permit:

A draft permit is being prepared under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (under the Clean Water Act). Sets limits for different constituents at "end of pipe". Separate from clean-up activities -- separate office of EPA. Public process: draft will be released to public, then public comment period. GE's old permit in use until new one is issued. Janet Labonte is contact at EPA for this. Permit update might be a presentation for CCC in the spring.

EPA will prepare a groundwater monitoring presentation for next CCC meeting.

CSTAG:

Letter went out about the upcoming meeting with the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group. Oral presentations from public on October 29. Location: 10 Lyman St. Time: 8:30-noon. Contact Kimberlee Keckler by next Thurs (10/10) to make presentation. Written comments accepted until Oct 8.

" Indirect costs" litigation:

Lawsuit brought by GE over amount of indirect costs imposed by EPA, based on a change in methodology made around the time the consent decree was signed. There was a court hearing on September 19th and decision is pending. GE has been making payments "under dispute". If GE wins, they will get credit on future payments. This litigation has not affected work and relations remain cordial between EPA and GE.

TOSCA Event

In December, GE discovered a PCB-laden transformer in one of their buildings. Leaked approximately 2 gallons of fluid. The fluid was contained. They notified EPA and it was disposed of. GE then swept through 73 buildings and several other TOSCA violations were discovered. EPA has brought an administrative enforcement action for compliance.

Outside the jurisdiction of the consent decree.

MA Dept. of Environmental Protection - Sue Keydel for Susan Steenstrup

Staffing update: Lyn Cutler had baby boy on Sept 25. Named Samuel Albert.

King St. Dump: Informational meeting held on 9/30 at the Conte School. About 30 people including residents, council reps, Mayor Hathaway, DEP, etc.

Elm Street Mobil Station: a letter sent to Mobil on 9/26 giving approval of audit follow-up plan.

Deming St.: no information

Natural Resources Damages (NRD) - Dale Young

Hired contractor to assist on inspection and monitoring over next 7 years.

MA Sub Council is putting together a Restoration Coordinator position. Money is with US Dept. of Interior and funds transfer is pending. Will be advertised as an 03 contract position with the state of Mass.

CT Subcommittee, by Judy Herkimer

Last meeting (Sept 30) attendees heard the same EPA presentations as today from Tim Conway. Mike Powers could not attend, but e-mailed his apologies with an update on NRD activities. Corrected date for next CT Trustees Sub Council meeting - Oct 22nd , not the 24th as previously reported.

Note was made of the CT NRD Sub-Council's appropriation of funds to the CTAG (Conn. Trustees Advisory Group) for hiring someone to take notes and secretarial duties. These funds would come from the CT NRD monies. Some felt it was not an appropriate use of funds considering there are other consultants or employees that could provide this service.

CT Sub Council now has two Massachusetts ex-officio members. Tim Gray mentioned that it is a tightly controlled group (unlike the MA Trustee Council) and he would like to see more involvement, especially if they use NRD money in areas other than the Housatonic River. Dale Young noted that money could be reallocated within the watershed, not just the river itself. There was a brief discussion about the perception that some groups are being deliberately excluded from participation in CT.

Action Items

- Index of available documents in Connecticut repositories is happening, but will take some time. (EPA)
- Monitoring handout specific to "½ mile" will be distributed before next meeting. (EPA)
- Presentation on groundwater monitoring & recovery system will be prepared for next meeting. (EPA)
- It was requested that some visual aspect of this presentation (power-point, videotape, etc.) be made available at repositories for those who cannot attend. GE agreed to explore the idea.
- GE offered to do presentation on their Eco Studies for "rest of river", at CCC meeting this winter. (GE)
- MODR will send e-mail with a) CSTAG meeting details and b) announcement about walking tour of "mile and ½". Will include information and how to sign up. (MODR)

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2002 5:30 pm at the Berkshire Community College.

GE - Housatonic River Citizens Coordinating Council

Calendar of Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 6, 2002

December 4, 2002

January 1, 2003 New Year's Day?*

February 5, 2003

March 5, 2003

April 2, 2003

May 7, 2003

June 4, 2003

July 2, 2003

* shall we change this meeting date?

CCC Action

CCC Action Items 11/06/02

½ mile monitoring Chart 10/15/02